

Elderly Nutrition Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2014
1:00pm – 2:30pm

State Department on Aging
55 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

Meeting convened at 1:08 pm.

Meeting participants:

Margaret Gerundo-Murkette-SDA, Jannett Haughton-SDA, Stephanie Marino-SDA, Pam Toohey-SDA, Richard Burton-DSS SNAP, Lisa LaBonte-CANASP, Maureen McIntyre-NCAAA, Kathleen McManamy-CCCI, Jessica Mahon-End Hunger CT, Deb Migneault-COA, Lucy Nolan-End Hunger CT, Sheila Nolte-DSS CHCPE, Lori Anne Russo-CHCACT and Joel Sekorski-CANASP.

Stephanie Marino welcomed all participants to the 2nd quarterly nutrition meeting and advised that minutes, agendas and handouts from all meetings can be viewed on the SDA website: www.ct.gov/aging. Stephanie gave a recap of the September 30, 2014 meeting followed by initiation of discussion regarding participant's programs: differences, eligibility, target populations, services offered, and challenges.

- **State Dept. on Aging:**
 - Funded thru Older Americans Act (Title IIIC) and state nutrition funds;
 - supported by the AAAs
 - Serves congregate and home delivered meals to 60+ population
 - Provides socialization, education, counseling, homebound caregiver support
 - Accepts voluntary donations
 - Have seen a decrease in congregate meals/increase in home delivered meals
- **CANASP (CT Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Providers):**
 - Meet monthly
 - Legislate for opportunities
 - Contract every 3 years with providers – 10 in state
 - Deliver CHCPE meals
 - Strive to increase outreach/education
- **DSS SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program):**
 - Nutrition offered to children, parents, older adults
 - There is an income limit and in some cases a \$3250 asset limit
 - Challenge for older adults to work through system
 - DSS workers reach out to the elderly, assisted living, and disabled housing
 - Offer cooking programs, demos
 - SNAP cards hold \$ for 9 months; if not used, cleared from system
 - Need simplified SNAP application
 - Confusing with separate redetermination forms for SNAP, QMB, Medicaid

- **CHCPE (Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders):**
Provides adults 65+ with a variety of home care services
State and federally funded; income/asset limits
Services include home delivered meals, home health aides, homemaker services
visiting nurse services
Serves those at risk of institutionalization

- **End Hunger CT:**
Advocate legislatively to end hunger
Provide outreach and public education
Compiling report on Elderly nutrition
Connect seniors to locally grown food; SNAP cards accepted
Provide info to seniors to apply for SNAP cards

- **CHCACT (Connecticut Health Center Association of Connecticut):**
Statewide outreach contractor for the SNAP program
Outreach to senior centers, farmer's markets, and health centers

Conversation continued among participants adding comments and questions for consideration:

- Discussion on how to connect adults to food banks, mobile banks, food shares, community-supported agriculture etc.
- How to coordinate between congregate and home delivered meals to support socialization and living at home.
- Discussion regarding payment discrepancies if meals are delivered to a home and the person is in the hospital.
- Western part of state is seeing an increase in congregate meals and a decrease in home delivered meals which is contrary to statewide picture seen by SDA for the Title III Elderly Nutrition Program.
- Many programs are connecting seniors with children via entertainment, socializing, intergenerational programs, etc.
- Joel Sekorski, CANASP, shared that CANASP is legislatively advocating for an increase in monies for elderly nutrition home meals and is also asking that consideration be given to having "buy-a-wheel" in grocery stores (a way to collect \$ in stores).

Stephanie Marino gave closing comments stating there is an apparent need to continue the discussion to better coordinate home delivered/congregate meal programs. All agreed that a 1 ½ hr. meeting seems sufficient. The next quarterly meeting will be held in March. The date for the next meeting will be decided via of the doodle poll which will be distributed sometime in January 2015.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.